

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02193 021347Z

45

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 /078 W

----- 009218

R 021206Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHC 7627

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL UDORN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH, LA

SUBJECT: RTG POLICY ON DEPORTATION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: A. BANGKOK 1031 B. STATE 007948

1. EMBOFF IN WORKING LEVEL MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
JANUARY 28 HEARD REITERATION OF RTG POLICY ON ADMISSION

OF ADDITIONAL INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO THAILAND. COL KAMOL
DIRECTOR OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS OPERATION CENTER (AND
OUR CHIEF WORKING LEVEL CONTACT FOR REFUGEES) STRESSED THAT
REFUGEES ARRIVING IN THAILAND ARE AS A MATTER OF POLICY
REGARDED AS ILLEGAL ALIENS. THE RTG HAS BEEN LENIENT IN
ENFORCING THIS POLICY IN THE PAST BUT IS BEGINNING TO SHOW
SIGNS OF MUCH STRICTER ENFORCEMENT. THIS IS SHOWING UP IN
THE FORM OF A FEW DEPORTATIONS TO LAOS. KAMOL
STRESSED THAT THAILAND WAS AT THE SATURATION POINT AND
THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE TO KEEP THAILAND FROM
BEING OVERWHELMED BY REFUGEES.

2. SPOT CHECKS BY U.S. REFUGEE OFFICER AT UDORN AND LOCAL
UNHCR OFFICIALS IN THE NORTHEAST INDICATE THERE ARE ABOUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02193 021347Z

16 CASES IN WHICH SMALL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN

DEPORTED TO LAOS. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW MANY WERE IN EACH GROUP AND HOW THE DEPORTATION WAS CARRIED OUT (FOR EXAMPLE, ARE REFUGEES FORCED TO RETURN TO LAOS BY OFFICIAL CHECK POINTS OR ARE THEY PERMITTED TO FADE ACROSS THE RIVER?).

3. THE UNHCR IS NOT IN A POSITION TO PREVENT FORCED REPATRIATION. GENERALLY, WE AND THE UNHCR HERE LEARN ABOUT SUCH INCIDENTS ONLY AFTER THEY HAVE OCCURRED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THAT A REFUGEE IS NOT DEPORTED IS FOR THE UNHCR TO GUARANTEE THAT THE REFUGEE WILL BE ACCEPTED BY A THIRD COUNTRY. THE UNHCR CANNOT PROVIDE THIS GUARANTEE WITHOUT A WRITTEN COMMITMENT FROM THE EMBASSY OF A THIRD COUNTRY DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO ACCEPT THE REFUGEE FOR IMMIGRATION.

4. WE HAVE URGED THE UNHCR AT A MEETING, FOLLOWING THE CALL ON THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES WITH THE RTG WHEREBY THE UNHCR WILL BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE ABOUT A PENDING DEPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRYING TO INTEREST THE THIRD COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT THE REFUGEE. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT SUCH A SYSTEM CAN BE CONSISTENTLY IMPLEMENTED AND IT PUTS UNHCR, AND TO SOME EXTENT THE EMBASSY, INTO POSITION WHERE REJECTION OF A REQUEST FOR IMMIGRATION IS TANTAMOUNT TO ACQUIESCING IN DEPORTATION. THE UNHCR IS SENSITIVE TO ITS MISSION OF PROTECTING REFUGEES FROM DEPORTATION BUT IS REALISTIC ABOUT THE THAI PERSPECTIVE ON THIS. DIRECTOR UNHCR BERTA CALLED ON THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JANUARY 28 TO STRESS UNHCR CONCERN.

5. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS SITUATION BUT WANT TO LEAVE THE MAJOR ACTION RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE UNHCR. THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT THUS FAR IS THAT THUS FAR DEPORTATIONS ARE NOT NUMERIOUS AND CHIEFLY AFFECT ONLY ONE NATIONALITY GROUP - LAOS REFUGEES.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLICIES, EXPULSION, ALIENS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO02193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-1049
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaaddsj.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 1031, 76 STATE 7948
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG POLICY ON DEPORTATION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, TH, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006